

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 182650
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-----105540 200212Z /61

R 191951Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO POSSIBLE LIFTING OF TURKISH
EMBARGO

REF: (A) ATHENS 6018, (B) STATE 167505

1. MEMORANDUM REFERRED TO IN REF A WAS CIRCULATED BY AM-
VETS' NATIONAL COMMANDER FRANK RUGGIERO TO REGIONAL COM-
MANDERS IN LATE MAY AND CONTAINED HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING
PRESIDENT HELD WITH LEADERS OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
MAY 19 RE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM.
MEMORANDUM HAD LANGUAGE WHICH GAVE IMPRESSION THAT ONE
ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN WHO APPEARED BEFORE THE VETERANS
GROUPS HAD INDICATED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DID NOT
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PAGE 02 STATE 182650

OPPOSE THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO.

2. THE MEMORANDUM AND THE PERTINENT LANGUAGE WAS CALLED
TO THE ATTENTION OF DEPARTMENT (EUR/SE) BY GREEK EMBASSY
IN LATE JUNE. AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT NO SUCH
STATEMENT WAS MADE, THE EMBASSY REQUESTED DEPARTMENT TO
CALL THE AMVETS' NATIONAL COMMANDER TO POINT OUT THE IN-

ACCURACY OF THE STATEMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, DEPTOFF TELEPHONED THE AMVETS' NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND INDICATED THAT THAT PORTION OF MEMORANDUM WAS NOT AN ACCURATE

REFLECTION OF WHAT WAS SAID AT THE MEETING. THE AMVETS' REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT CERTAIN REMARKS HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED AND THAT THE ORGANIZATION APPRECIATED THE CLARIFICATION. THE DEPTOFF WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE GREEK EMBASSY HAD INDEPENDENTLY CONTACTED THE ORGANIZATION AND REQUESTED A RETRACTION. THE AMVETS AGREED TO CIRCULATE TO ITS REGIONAL COMMANDERS ANY STATEMENT THE GREEK EMBASSY WISHED TO PROVIDE CONCERNING ITS POSITION ON THE ARMS EMBARGO.

3. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS ALSO ALLUDED TO MEMORANDUM IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ ON JUNE 30 IN A BROADER DISCUSSION OF GREEK CONCERN OVER THE ADMINISTRATION'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE GOG RESPONSE TO ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO LIFT TURKISH EMBARGO.

4. IN RESPONDING TO ANY INQUIRIES ON THIS SUBJECT, EMBASSY SHOULD STATE THAT THE PORTION OF THE MEMORANDUM REFERRED TO BY EFSTATHIADES IN THE TO VIMA ARTICLE RELATING TO GREEK CONCERN OVER LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IS NOT AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF WHAT WAS SAID IN THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING. IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MFA YOU MAY ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 182650

WISH TO MAKE THE SAME GENERAL POINT WHICH NIMETZ MADE TO THE GREEK AMBASSADOR TO THE EFFECT THAT WE WILL GIVE OUR CANDID ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL HAVE ON THE POSITION OF KARAMANLIS AND STABILITY IN GREECE WHENEVER WE ARE PRESSED ON THIS POINT. CHRISTOPHER

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